

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of facilitating patient access to pharmacies, comprising:
establishing a prescription registry in which patients who have joined said
prescription registry may store information regarding their prescriptions;
5 receiving and storing said information in said prescription registry;
assigning a unique prescription identifier to said information for each
prescription, said unique prescription identifier initially known only to said patients and
said prescription registry;
providing said patients with a list of pharmacies that have subscribed to said
10 prescription registry, said list including contact information which said patients may use
to contact and provide said pharmacies with one or more prescription identifiers; and
allowing said pharmacies to access said information stored on said prescription
registry using said prescription identifiers.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein all communications and
transaction between said patients and said pharmacies take place through said
pharmacies' normal channels and not through said prescription registry.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of receiving said
20 information includes receiving a scanned image file of an original prescription slip for
each prescription.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said step of receiving said
information further includes obtaining physical possession of an original prescription slip
25 for each prescription.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said prescription identifier
includes a fill code for each patient that may be used for all prescriptions belonging to
said patient.
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6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said prescription identifier further includes a prescription number for each prescription of said patient.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising requiring said
5 pharmacies to satisfy one or more qualification criteria, including passing a background check, in order to subscribe to said prescription registry.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising requiring said
10 subscribing pharmacies to pay a fee to said prescription registry.

9. A system for facilitating patient access to pharmacies, comprising:
a prescription registry, said prescription registry including at least one database
therein for storing prescription information and further including a user interface for said
at least one database, said user interface comprising:

15 a member login screen for allowing a member of said prescription registry to
access said at least one database;

a prescription information screen for allowing a member services provider
operator to capture prescription information for one or more prescriptions of said
member;

20 a prescription upload screen for allowing said member services provider operator
to upload said prescription information, including a scanned image file of each
prescription, to said at least one database;

a prescription verification screen for allowing a pharmacy to access said
prescriptions using a unique prescription identifier, said prescription identifier initially
25 known only to said member and said prescription registry; and

a prescription acceptance screen for allowing said pharmacy to accept said one or
more prescriptions and for locking each prescription that is accepted by said pharmacy
from further access.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a membership application screen for accepting new members to said prescription registry.

5 11. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a member services screen for allowing said member to search for member services providers and pharmacies.

10 12. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a member services screen for allowing said member to search for member services providers and pharmacies.

15 13. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a member services screen for allowing said member to update membership information.

 14. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a membership verification screen for allowing said member services provider operator to verify a membership of said member.

20 15. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user interface further comprises a membership verification screen for allowing said pharmacy to verify a membership of said member.

25 16. A prescription registry service, comprising:
a database configured to store prescription information;
members who upload their prescription information to said database;
member services providers that assist said members to upload their prescription information to said database; and

pharmacies that access said prescription information stored on said database, wherein said pharmacies are only allowed to access prescriptions for which they have been authorized by said members.

5 17. The prescription registry service according to claim 16, wherein said members must surrender their original prescription slips to the prescription registry service before their prescription information are made accessible to said pharmacies.

10 18. The prescription registry service according to claim 16, wherein said database is configured to lock from further access any prescription information that have been accepted for filling by said pharmacies.

15 19. The prescription registry service according to claim 16, wherein said members authorize said pharmacies to fill their prescription information by providing said pharmacies with a prescription number and a fill code.

20 20. The prescription registry service according to claim 9, wherein said pharmacies agree to pay said prescription registry service in a predetermined fee for each prescription filled by said pharmacies.